

OXFORD YOUTH CHOIRS

England & Wales · Charity number 299109

Details

Other names OXFORD GIRLS' CHOIR, OXFORD BOYS' CHOIR

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1988-04-26

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 5 Gathorne Road
Headington
Oxford
OX3 8NF

Phone 07927710180

Email admin@oxfordyouthchoirs.org.uk

Website www.oxfordyouthchoirs.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE, IMPROVE, DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN AND APPRECIATION OF THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MUSIC IN ALL ITS ASPECTS BY THE PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC CONCERTS AND RECITALS AND BY SUCH OTHER WAYS AS THE CHOIR THROUGH ITS COMMITTEE SHALL DETERMINED FROM TIME TO TIME.

Activities: Oxford Youth Choirs' aim is to provide vocal training to the highest standard for children aged 4 to 18, in pursuit of its charitable objectives. All members attend on Saturday mornings throughout the School term at Cherwell School in Oxford, and members from throughout Oxfordshire are welcome.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Oxfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-09-15	£37,602	£36,299	-	-
2023-08-15	£41,183	£38,640	-	-
2022-08-15	£36,776	£44,558	-	-
2021-08-15	£33,012	£34,157	-	-
2020-08-15	£39,179	£41,848	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Lydia Vella	Chair	2023-07-08
Alexander James Stewart Silverman		2023-07-08
Arabella Saer		2024-07-13
Catherine Wearden		2022-07-09
Dr Matthew Francis Brown		2024-06-25
Dr Robert John Legg		2024-06-25
Geoffrey John Sutton		2014-06-21
Jerome Gregory Finnis		2023-07-08
Maria Chataway		2022-07-09

OXFORD YOUTH CHOIRS

England & Wales - Charity number 299109

Accounts

OXFORD YOUTH CHOIRS ANNUAL REPORT OF TRUSTEES

For the academic year 2023/2024 To be presented to the AGM, 14/07/2025

Registered charity number 299109

Legal and Administrative information Trustees Lydia Vella Chair Geoff Sutton Treasurer Catherine Wearden Honorary Secretary Matthew Brown Maria Finnis Jerome Finnis Rob Legg Arabella Saer Alex Silverman

Music staff Richard Vendome Musical Director Amy Chang Junior and Senior Choir Teacher Colin Daskin Junior and Senior Choir Teacher Margaret Lingas Junior and Senior Choir Teacher Lucia Boué Prep Choirs Teacher Hannah Rhodes Prep Choirs Teacher Izzie Mohan Accompanist

Administrator Colin Daskin

Chair's Report Trustees For 2023 - 2024, the committee of Trustees was chaired by Lydia Vella, with Geoff Sutton continuing as treasurer. Catherine Wearden kindly offered, and was voted in, to fulfil the role of the Honorary Secretary. We were delighted to welcome Arabella Saer, Rob Legg and Matthew Brown as Trustees in June and July 2024.

Staff Matters Richard Vendome (Musical Director) retired in July 2024, having founded and directed the choir since 1984. Under his direction, the choirs achieved an outstanding reputation for musical accomplishment and education, with several members going on to professional careers in music. We are grateful to Richard for his 40 years of dedication to the choir and wish him well in his retirement. In preparation for Richard's retirement, the Trustees advertised to appoint a new Musical Director to start in September 2024. Several strong candidates with excellent credentials were interviewed and auditioned for the role. We were delighted to appoint Benedict Goodall to the role. Ben is a professional singer who specialises in musical education and choral conducting. We look forward to working with Ben in the next chapter for the choir. Hannah Rhodes returned from maternity leave to resume her role as a teacher to the Prep choirs for 2023 - 2024, and resigned at the end of the year. Hannah worked with the choir for 11 years and we thank her for her service to the choir.

The Year's Events in Summary In December 2023, the choir performed two Christmas concerts at St Mary and St Nicholas Church in Littlemore. These concerts were warmly received and the event was structured around a lunch to foster the sense of continuity and community between the choirs. In February 2024, the Junior and Senior choirs were excited to contribute backing vocals to a pop song composed by Frannie B, a former member of the

choir and musician. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience of singing in a studio , which was new for many of them, and were pleased to hear the results on Spotify! In March 2024, the Junior and Senior Choirs performed Aesop's Fables, an original composition by John Whitaker. The performance was filmed at St Andrew's Church, Oxford, and included an ensemble of professional musicians. Our Prep choirs performed their own repertoire at the event, which was well attended with excellent feedback. In April 2024, the Junior and Senior Choirs sang in the children's chorus for two performances of the St Matthew Passion, directed by John Lubbock. These performances afforded the children the opportunity to sing with an adult choir and orchestra and in particularly beautiful venues: St John The Evangelist Church (SJE) Oxford, and Dorchester Abbey. Our main event of 2024 was an anniversary concert at SJE to celebrate 40 years of Richard's direction of the choir. This was a spectacular musical occasion - with exceptional performances from Roderick Williams and Colin Good and the alumnae, as well as the current choirs. We hope that Richard enjoyed the event and that it was a fitting tribute to all he has achieved with the choir! Finally, we held our summer concert in July 2024 at Cherwell School, our rehearsal venue. This concert celebrated the work of all the choirs and ended in a shared lunch for all. **Looking Forward** As we looked forward to the Year 2024-2025, the committee prepared to support the transition from Richard's direction to Ben's. We considered approaches to expand the membership and raise funds for the choir, which had both suffered during the covid lockdowns. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the singers, parents, teachers, trustees and patrons for all they do and their parts in the success of the year above, as well as their drive and commitment to meet the challenges ahead. Lydia Vella Chair of Trustees
AGM 14/07/2025

TREASURER'S REPORT

OXFORD YOUTH CHOIRS For the Years 2023/2024

To be presented to the AGM, Saturday, 7.30pm, 14th July 2025

The charity made a modest surplus in the 2023-2024 financial year, thanks to generous donations and a big fund-raising concert to celebrate Richard Vendome's 40 years as musical director. Membership fee income excluding donations remained stable compared with the previous year at £25329. Donations and concerts boosted overall income up to £37602, a drop of about 9% compared with the previous year's income of £41183. Turning to costs, our teaching costs dropped further from £20818 to £19131, actually down 31% over two years, a major cost saving achieved while maintaining the quality of our teaching. Other non-teaching costs increased slightly from £12596 to £14039, due to increased administration costs. Thankfully rent costs remained stable due to no rent increase at Cherwell.

The final result was a surplus, down from 2022/2023 of £2652 to £1303 for 2023/2024.

Choir numbers remained stable. Fees again were kept constant to aid recruitment given there are a large number of choirs now operating in the same market sector within Oxford.

Loveadmin continues to serve the choir well, reducing the administration load and administration overhead.

Looking ahead, the main risks still facing the charity are problems in recruiting sufficient members to keep the charity afloat and increasing costs. The good news is that membership of the younger choirs is holding up while the bad news is that the senior choir membership continues to remain small in size. Fees will increase for 2025/26 along with a long overdue increase in teacher hourly rates.

In terms of future viability, I can confirm that the choir has the reserves to get through the next year to September 2025.

The choir has no employees in 2023/24 and had none in 2022/23 and 2021/22.

Expenses were reimbursed to the treasurer, for expenses incurred by credit card, December 2023 £445 for Making Music membership. Our Chair, Dr Lydia Vella, received £53.50 in April 2024 for one session accompanying the prep choirs. One of our trustees, Alex Silverman received £81.40 in December 2023 for supporting one session of the senior choir.

I reported last year that Inland Revenue gave permission for the choir to reclaim giftaid on membership fees. Using Loveadmin to administer the giftaid permissions, the choir will be claiming giftaid from now on where permitted provided membership fee payments are made direct to the choir's bank account. A lot of membership payments in the past have come through Loveadmin, payment partner, Go Cardless, this means that a lot of payments that we previously thought would qualify for Giftaid, won't now qualify as we learnt recently that only membership payments made direct into the choir's bank account qualify. Steps have now been taken to ensure as many membership payments as possible go direct into the choir's account.

We continue to bank with CAF Bank, part of HSBC Group, with a second account at Barclays Bank.

Geoff Sutton
Treasurer
AGM 14th July 2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Oxford Youth Choirs

299109

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

8/16/2023

To

9/15/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Subscriptions	25,329	-	-	25,329	25,031
Donations	5,493	-	-	5,493	5,427
Concerts and events	5,092	-	-	5,092	4,186
Gift aid	1,418	-	-	1,418	1,446
Bank interest	270	-	-	270	93
Insurance refund: piano	-	-	-	-	5,000
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	37,602	-	-	37,602	41,183
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	37,602	-	-	37,602	41,183
A3 Payments					
Music tuition fees	19,131	-	-	19,131	20,818
Concert and event expenses	3,129	-	-	3,129	5,767
Administrator expenses	4,263	-	-	4,263	1,728
Rent and storage costs	7,599	-	-	7,599	8,862
Other running costs	2,177	-	-	2,177	1,465
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	36,299	-	-	36,299	38,640
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	36,299	-	-	36,299	38,640
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,303	-	-	1,303	2,543
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	15,441	-	-	15,441	12,898
Cash funds this year end	16,744	-	-	16,744	15,441

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Gold Account	10,385	-	-
	CAF Cash Account	5,959	-	-
	Barclays Bank	400	-	-
	Total cash funds	16,744	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
	Gift Aid (figure not yet available)	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Independent Examiner's fee	Unrestricted	-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Oxford Youth Choirs

**On accounts for the year
ended**

15/09/2024 (13 months)

**Charity no
(if any)**

299109

Set out on pages

1 and 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 15/09/2024.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Peter J. Stevenson

Date: 23/06/2025

Name: Peter J Stevenson

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Address: Flat 25, Cherwell Court, Banbury Road,
Kidlington
OX5 2BG

OXFORD YOUTH CHOIRS

England & Wales - Charity number 299109

Accounts

OXFORD YOUTH CHOIRS ANNUAL REPORT OF TRUSTEES

For the Years 2022/2023

To be presented to the AGM, Saturday, 12.10pm, 13th July 2024

Registered charity number 299109

Legal and Administrative information

Trustees

Liisa O'Connor	Chair
Geoff Sutton	Treasurer
Maria Chataway	
Tim Gardam	
Catherine Wearden	
Lydia Vella	

Music staff

Richard Vendome	Musical Director
Amy Chang	Senior and Junior Choirs
Colin Daskin	Boys' Choir and Administrator
Margaret Lingas	Vocal Coach
Louise Taylor	Junior Choir
Tom Anderson	Junior Choir
Lucia Boué	Prep Choirs
Lydia Vella	Prep choir accompanist (maternity cover for Hannah Rhodes)

Administrator

Judith Grace

Chair's Report

Trustees

The 2022-2023 year started with Liisa O'Connor in the role of Chair. She stepped down at the AGM in July 2023, having worked hard to steer the choir through significant structural changes and its recovery from the impact of the Covid restrictions. Similarly, Tim Gardam stepped down as a trustee, having also made a huge contribution to the running and success of the choir. We thank them both for their hard work and dedication to the roles.

In terms of new trustees, we were delighted to welcome Jerome Finnis and Alex Silverman to the committee at the July 2023 AGM - both are parents of children in the Prep choirs.

Staff Matters

Louise Taylor and Tom Anderson both resigned from teaching the Junior choir in the first term of 2023. Hannah Rhodes, teacher for the Prep choirs, took maternity leave for the year 2022 - 2023 and Lydia Vella provided cover for Hannah as an accompanist to the Prep choirs under the direction of Lucia Boué.

Our administrator, Judith Grace, resigned from the role in Autumn 2022; we thank her for hard work and contribution to the running of the choir. Liisa O'Connor kindly covered the administrative tasks for an interim period until Colin Daskin took the paid role in January 2023.

The Year's Events in Summary

The Year 2022 - 2023 saw big changes in the structure and focus of the Junior and Senior choirs, which aimed to address the negative impact of Covid on the children's engagement and technical abilities. This involved forming three choirs, structured as a training choir (Girls 1) and two tiers of senior choir (Girls 2 and 3), with dedicated time for vocal training. This was trialled and reviewed in the 2022 Autumn term with the decision to revert back to two choirs with more overlap between them to increase engagement, and to continue with dedicated time for vocal technique training. Following the resignation of Louise and Tom, the existing staff worked with the Junior choir.

In November 2022, the Prep choir, Junior choir and some of the Senior choir took part in an exciting event organised by Music At Oxford to sing in Avo Pärt's Songs from Childhood. This involved several local choirs and an orchestra of professional musicians, with a chance to perform in the new Olivier Theatre at St Edwards School.

Later in November 2022, the Girls 2 and 3 choirs performed a Concert of Carols at St Mary and St Nicholas Church in Littlemore. In December, the Senior girls sang for an OAC event at Exeter College, which carried particular prestige. These concerts received positive and encouraging feedback.

In April 2023, the Junior and Senior choirs worked hard to stage two performances of the opera, Dido and Aeneas, at St Mary and St Nicholas Church, Littlemore. These performances were well received with positive feedback on the quality of the singing and soloists. It was also a great opportunity to make use of the theatrical costumes owned by OYC.

In July 2023, the Junior and Senior choirs took part in an exciting collaboration concert with a choir from Padova, Italy, and the Oxford Man Choir as part of a twinning event organised by Mel Holdershaw and Anna Proudfoot. The choir excelled themselves and the concert ended with a powerful finale of all the choirs singing A Million Dreams from the Greatest Showman.

We finished the year with a Summer concert in July 2023, celebrating the work of all the choirs within the OYC family. This was structured to inspire the youngest children by letting them observe the Junior and Senior choirs.

In July 2023, Tom Anderson returned to offer a one-off workshop to the choir and their families. This was an energetic and engaging event, and a collaboration we'd be keen to continue.

Alongside the performances, the committee reviewed and updated the safeguarding policy and explored other possible venues for rehearsal due to increasing costs at Cherwell. Unfortunately, a suitable alternative venue has yet to be found.

Looking Forward

As we looked forward to the Year 2023-2024, the committee had extensive discussions about the choir's niche and aims in the context of post-covid changes and a thriving local choral scene that inevitably provides competition for OYC. These discussions took place in preparation for the 40th anniversary (Summer 2024), the retirement of Richard Vendome and forming a plan for the recruitment of a successor.

Given the changes in the choir's structure and focus, we hoped to support the teachers to feel established in their roles with the different groups, and in turn for the children's engagement to settle and for membership to increase back to pre-Covid levels. The change in the choir's context also called for more creativity and tenacity in seeking alternative sources of funding, as well as continuing to look for a more affordable venue.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the singers, parents, teachers, trustees and patrons for all they do and their parts in the success of the year above, as well as their drive and commitment to meet the challenges ahead.

Lydia Vella
Chair of Trustees
Treasurer's Report Oxford Youth Choirs 2022/23

AGM 13th July 2024

The charity made a modest surplus in the 2022-2023 financial year, thanks to a generous donation and an insurance payout for our piano which was damaged beyond economic repair. Membership fee income excluding donations dropped from the previous year post Covid and decreased by about 15% from £29925 to £25642 before Loveadmin fees, £25031 after Loveadmin fees were deducted, presumably as the cost-of-living crisis hit and parents withdrew their children to save money. Donations, concerts and the insurance payout boosted overall income up from £36776 to £41183, a 12% increase. Following last year's massive rent increase, rental costs (excluding storage) continued to increase from £7099 to £8232, and now forms 65% of non-teaching expenses. However, we restructured our teaching and saw costs drop from £27600 to £20818, a major cost saving achieved while maintaining the quality of our teaching.

Numbers of children in the prep and junior choirs held up but the senior choir suffered yet another further reduction in numbers post covid. Fees again were kept constant to aid recruitment given there are a large number of choirs now operating in the same market sector within Oxford.

Loveadmin continues to serve the choir well, reducing the administration load and administration overhead. Administration costs dropped significantly as our administrator of previous years resigned and the Chair, Liisa O'Connor took over administration for a term at no charge before we appointed a new administrator, one of the staff, Colin Danskin who now has two roles, that of singing teacher and also admin. Admin costs were £1728, down from £3240. We are very grateful to Liisa for her time spent on the administration as it gave her the chance to also make several changes and further streamline and reduce the admin costs.

Looking ahead, the main risks still facing the charity are problems in recruiting sufficient members to keep the charity afloat and increasing costs. The good news is that membership of the younger choirs is holding up while the bad news is that the senior choir membership continues to reduce in size. Fees will increase for 2023/24 along with a long overdue increase in teacher hourly rates.

In terms of future viability, I can confirm that the choir has the reserves to get through the next year to August 2024, partly helped by significant donations and the insurance payout for the piano.

The choir has no employees in 2023/24 and had none in 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Expenses were reimbursed to the treasurer, Geoffrey Sutton, for expenses incurred by credit card. December 2022 £417 for Making Music membership. Lydia Vella was accompanying the prep choirs prior to joining the committee as a trustee on 8th July 2023 so with the financial year ending 15th August 2023, I declare that she was paid £980.08 on 15/03/23, £668.75 on 02/05/23 and £628.63 on 11/08/23.

Finally Inland Revenue gave permission for the choir to reclaim giftaid on membership fees. Using Loveadmin to administer the giftaid permissions, the choir will be claiming giftaid from now on where permitted.

Geoffrey Sutton
Treasurer
AGM 13th July 2024



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Oxford Youth Choirs 299109

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from 8/16/2022 To 8/15/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Subscriptions	25,031	-	-	25,031	27,777
Donations	5,427	-	-	5,427	3,101
Concerts and events	4,186	-	-	4,186	4,954
Gift aid	1,446	-	-	1,446	937
Bank interest	93	-	-	93	7
Insurance refund: piano	5,000	-	-	5,000	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	41,183	-	-	41,183	36,776
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	41,183	-	-	41,183	36,776
A3 Payments					
Music tuition fees	20,818	-	-	20,818	27,600
Concert and event expenses	5,767	-	-	5,767	5,655
Administrator expenses	1,728	-	-	1,728	3,240
Rent and storage costs	8,862	-	-	8,862	7,389
Other running costs	1,465	-	-	1,465	674
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	38,640	-	-	38,640	44,558
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	38,640	-	-	38,640	44,558
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,543	-	-	2,543	7,782
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	20,680
A6 Cash funds last year end	12,898	-	-	12,898	-
Cash funds this year end	15,441	-	-	15,441	12,898

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Gold Account	10,126	-	-
	CAF Cash Account	5,015	-	-
	Barclays Bank	300	-	-
	Total cash funds	15,441	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Gift Aid (estimated)		-	-
			-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Independent Examiner's fee	Unrestricted	-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Oxford Youth Choirs

**On accounts for the year
ended**

15/08/2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

299109

Set out on pages

1 and 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 15/08/2023.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Peter J. Stevenson

Date:

08/07/2024

Name:

Peter J Stevenson

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

FCA

Address:

8 Harbord Road

Oxford

OX2 8LJ

OXFORD YOUTH CHOIRS

England & Wales - Charity number 299109

Accounts

Trustee's annual report for financial year 2021/22

Chair's Report Oxford Youth Choirs 2021/22

1. Trustees

The year started with new Chair Eleanor Williamson and vice-Chair Liisa O'Connor. Covid was a key consideration for Autumn Term 2021 and Eleanor invested a significant amount of time on preparation and the related paperwork, including a comprehensive risk assessment. Due to personal reasons, Eleanor unfortunately had to step down as the Chair and Liisa stepped into the Chair's role on 31st August to enable a seamless start for the Term.

I would like to thank all Trustees who gave their time and served OYC brilliantly throughout 2021-22.

2. Staff matters

In Autumn Term 2021, Will Harmer joined OYC as the accompanist and Lydia Vella kindly agreed to run the junior girls' tuck shop. Eve Madeley-Wyatt resigned as the Admin person on 9th November 2021 due to increased work commitments outside OYC but kindly agreed to continue to provide Admin services until Christmas 2021. Judith Grace joined OYC as the new Admin person in January 2022.

3. The year's events in summary

Sessions started at Cherwell on 11th September 2021 with a detailed Covid protocols in place. Richard Vendome wrote "From September, we endeavour to offer as 'normal' a singing and social experience as possible for all our members, while continuing to ensure a Covid-safe environment." The option to participate from home (via Zoom) remained available to ensure that every member felt included.

The OYC Christmas Concert took place on 12th December 2021 at St Michael's Church, Summertown. The senior choir also recorded Christmas Carols for OAC.

On 24th February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. In March 2022 the Choir recorded Prayer for Ukraine, which was very well received by people from all over the world. In just six days the video had 2900 views: 34% from Ukraine, 14% from the UK, 12% from Russia and 6% from the USA. The Oxford Mail also published an article about the recording.

In Summer Term 2022 Concert singing sessions were started and proved a success in addition to the regular choir singing.

On Saturday 11th June 2022 a reduced sized Senior Choir travelled to Chipping Norton and sang at a wedding in the local church.

The summer concerts were held on the 2nd and 9th July.

Treasurer's Report Oxford Youth Choirs 2021/22

The charity made a substantial loss in the 2021-2022 financial year, with the loss increasing from £1145 in 2020/21 to £7782. Membership fee income excluding donations recovered somewhat from the previous year post Covid and increased by about 8% from £27777 to £29925. Donations and concerts boosted overall income up from £33013 to £36776, a 11% increase. However expenses rose overall by 25% with rent increasing substantially, forcing the choir into another year of losses which resulted in a drawdown of reserves. The choir trustees only found out that rents had increased massively compared to pre-Covid costs when much larger invoices for rent already incurred were sent to the choir.

Subsequent negotiations with our landlord resulted in a small decrease in rent and rents are now paid in advance so the choir will not be caught unawares again in the future. To quantify the increase as a % of expenses, in 2018/19 pre Covid, rent was 8% of expenses, in 2021/22, rent was 17%. Comparing 2021-22 to the previous year, rent increased by £5250, an increase of over 300%.

Tuition expenses also increased substantially. The increase was from £18336 to £25561, an increase of £7226, partly as a result of two late invoices that should have been paid in 2020/21 totalling £1976.74 and partly because of the increase in teaching hours post Covid and the recommencement of concerts.

Numbers of children in the prep and junior choirs held up but the senior choir suffered a significant reduction in numbers post covid. Fees were kept constant to aid recruitment given there are a large number of choirs now operating in the same market sector within Oxford.

Loveadmin continues to serve the choir well, reducing the administration load and administration overhead. Administration cost £3240, substantially less than in previous years.

Looking ahead, the main risks facing the charity are problems in recruiting sufficient members to keep the charity afloat and increasing costs. The good news is that membership of the younger choirs is holding up while the senior choir membership has stabilised. In terms of managing increasing costs, teacher's pay will be held at the same rate for 2022/2023, while rents will be roughly the same as in 2021/22.

In terms of Future Viability, I can confirm that the choir has the reserves to get through the next year to August 2023, partly helped by significant donations.

The choir has no employees in 2022/23 and had none in 2020/21 and 2021/22.

Expenses were reimbursed to the treasurer, for expenses incurred by credit card. November 2021, domain renewal £71.94, December 2021 £502 for Making Music membership.

Finally Inland Revenue gave permission for the choir to reclaim giftaid on membership fees. Using Loveadmin to administer the giftaid permissions, the choir will be claiming giftaid from now on where permitted.

Geoff Sutton

Treasurer

AGM 8th July 2023, updated 28th July 2023



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	8/16/2021	To	8/15/2022
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
Subscriptions	27,777	-	-	27,777
Donations	3,101	-	-	3,101
Concerts	4,954	-	-	4,954
Other events	-	-	-	-
Gift aid	937	-	-	937
Bank interest	7	-	-	7
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	36,776	-	-	36,776
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	36,776	-	-	36,776
A3 Payments				
Music tuition fees	21,649	-	-	21,649
Concert expenses	11,606	-	-	11,606
Purchase of piano	-	-	-	-
Administrator expenses	3,240	-	-	3,240
Rent and storage costs	7,389	-	-	7,389
Other running costs	674	-	-	674
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	44,558	-	-	44,558
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total payments	44,558	-	-	44,558
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 7,782	-	-	- 7,782
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	20,680	-	-	20,680
Cash funds this year end	12,898	-	-	12,898

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Gold Account	10,044	-
	CAF Cash Account	2,654	-
	Barclays Bank	200	-
	Total cash funds	12,898	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Gift Aid (estimated)	500	-
	Subscriptions	452	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Independent Examiner's fee	Unrestricted	100
			-
			-
			-
			-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name

CC16a



Last year
to the nearest £

29,925
1,617
90
1,380
-
-
-
-
33,012

-
-

33,012

21,418
1,507
1,600
4,680
2,646
2,306
-
-
-
34,157

-
-

34,157

-	1,145
-	-
-	-
-	1,145



Endowment funds
to nearest £

-
-
-
-

OK

Endowment funds
to nearest £

-
-
-
-
-
-

Current value (optional)

-
-
-
-
-

Current value (optional)

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

When due (optional)

Date of approval



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Company Name
Oxford Youth Choirs

**On accounts for the year
ended**

15/08/2022	Charity no (if any)	299109
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Set out on pages

1 and 2
Remember to include the page or pages of optional sheets

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 15/08/2022.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Peter J. Stevenson

Date: 21/07/2023

Name: Peter J Stevenson

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

FCA

Address:

8 Harbord Road
Oxford
OX2 8LJ

OXFORD YOUTH CHOIRS

England & Wales - Charity number 299109

Accounts

OXFORD YOUTH CHOIRS

ANNUAL REPORT OF TRUSTEES

For the Year to 15th August 2021
Presented to the AGM, Saturday, 11.00am,
2nd July 2022



Registered charity number 299109

[A] Legal and Administrative Information

1. Trustees

Jon Livesey	<i>Chair</i>
Geoff Sutton	<i>Treasurer</i>
Nick Wenban-Smith	<i>Honorary Secretary</i>
Nilanjana Banerji	
Charlotte Hicks	
David Jones	
Esther Livesey	
Liisa O'Connor	
Lydia Vella	
Maria Finnis	
Eleanor Williamson	

2. Music staff

Richard Vendome	<i>Musical Director</i>
Penelope 'Peps' Martin-Smith	<i>Associate Musical Director and Director, Boys' Programme Boys' Programme teacher</i>
David Palmer	
Daisy Livesey	
Hannah Rhodes	<i>Prep Choirs</i>
Lucia Boue	<i>Prep Choirs</i>
Monica Nelson	<i>Prep Choirs - maternity cover</i>
Louise Taylor	<i>Junior Girls' Choir</i>
Tom Anderson	<i>Junior Girls' Choir</i>
Margaret Lingas	<i>Vocal Coach</i>

3. Administrator

Eve Madeley-Wyatt, 16 Swinbourne Road, Littlemore, Oxford, OX4 4PQ

4. Charities correspondent

Eve Madeley-Wyatt, 16 Swinbourne Road, Littlemore, Oxford, OX4 4PQ

5. Bankers

CAF bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ
Barclay's Bank PLC, Oxford City Branch

6. Independent examiner

Peter Stephenson, 8 Harbord Road, Oxford, OX2 8LJ

7. Objectives (from clause 2 of the constitution)

The objects of the Choir shall be to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects through the training of girls and boys in singing and musicianship and by the presentation of public concerts and recitals and by other ways as the Choirs through their committee shall determine from time to time.

8. Structure

The Registered Charity is the responsibility of Trustees who are parents acting in a voluntary capacity. The Choirs are managed by a Committee made up of the Trustees and the Musical Director, with other music staff and the part-time administrator in attendance.

OYS provides vocal training to the highest standard for children aged 4-18, in pursuit of its charitable objectives. Musical direction and training of the children is the responsibility of the Musical Director. Rehearsals are on Saturday mornings through school term at Cherwell School. Choirs comprise: Senior Girls, Junior Girls, Boys, Junior Boys, and Prep 1 and Prep 2.

9. Charitable status

Oxford Youth Choirs is a registered charity: number 299109.

[B] Treasurer's Report

The 2020 2021 financial year was the year Covid really impacted the Choir's finances and membership. Membership income dropped for the 2nd year running to below £30,000 but so did teaching time with a consequent drop in costs. While the charity made a loss in the 2020 2021 financial year, the drop in membership income was again, like the previous year, offset by the avoidance of costs associated with live performances which historically have rarely broken-even. The choir continued to support families hit by the 2nd Covid lockdown in January 2021 with the trustees continuing to suspend some fees for those families who were facing dire financial circumstances but whose children were participating enthusiastically in the online learning session. The trustees felt it was better to keep the children on-roll and support them rather ask them to leave while their parents experienced a temporary drop in

income. Compared with 2019/20, the amount required was far less as some parents were able to recommence paying membership fees once their incomes recovered. The Choir continues to benefit from the use of the integrated administration service provided by Loveadmin which helped to keep admin costs down. The Charity also invested in a good 2nd hand piano for use at Cherwell, the purchase being financed by donations. Overall, it was a tough year but the choir came through the worst of the pandemic, putting it in a good position to continue as life returned to normal.

[C] Chair's Report

1. Trustees

The year started with new Chair Ed Conroy taking over from Jon Livesey. Due to the lack of incoming new trustees and the precarious position relating to covid-lockdown and the future of the choir, Nick Wenban-Smith agreed to continue as Secretary and Jon and Esther Livesey stayed on as trustees. Ed quickly set-about planning for covid-safe rehearsals, from the end of September. This welcome return to face-to-face singing was short-lived and after half-term, our online Zoom offer was revived. Shortly before the start of the Spring term, Ed tendered his resignation and Jon Livesey was asked to return to act as interim Chair.

Four new trustees have since been appointed during spring-term (Liisa O'Connor, Lydia Vella, Maria Finnis and Eleanor Williamson).

2. Staff matters

The staff complement remained stable throughout the year. Because the lockdown enforced rehearsals on Zoom, we were happy to retain the services of Peps Martin-Smith, despite her relocation to France (until Easter 2021). We welcomed back Amy Chang (former accompanist) to teach Senior Girls and former Head Girl, Daisy Livesey to teach Boys Choir and Senior Girls.

Monica Nelson has continued her association with OYC and has started a 'Mini-Music' group for pre-school children - this started as an online offer and has progressed to face-to-face meetings at Cherwell.

2. The year's events in summary

Sessions started in September on Zoom, but soon plans were afoot to carry out risk assessments and produce guidance to allow the choir to return to face-to-face rehearsals at Cherwell (following the guidance for children's 'out of school hours activities'). The obvious excitement of

singing together was sadly short-lived and at the start of November the second lockdown sent us back to Zoom.

The teachers continued to finesse the various Zoom presentations. The senior girls' choir provided a mix of whole group and smaller tuition groups to improve the contact between tutors and girls by utilizing the breakout-room feature in Zoom.

Thankfully, the introduction of the government's roadmap in April allowed the choir to return once more to face-to-face rehearsals after Easter, with virtually the same covid-restrictions in place as in October (once again, following the guidance for children's 'out of school hours activities'). Group sizes were again limited to 15, meaning more, shorter sessions. This was made possible by calling on up to five teachers for Senior Girls.

The rehearsals could not have taken place without the support of parent-helpers whose efforts we are very grateful for.

Despite the continuing commitment of teachers, choir-members and parents the one thing we haven't been able to achieve has been live-performances. Nonetheless, our new found online skills have produced a number of recorded-performances, as follows:

- 30 June 2020 - The Prayer *Junior Girls*
- 21 December 2020 OAC carols *Senior Girls*
- 24 December 2020 Oxford Youth Choirs Christmas Video *all choirs*
- 14 March 2021 Mothering God (arr. by Richard Vendome) *Senior Girls*
- 8 April 2021 Winter-Time (composition by Will Inscoe) *Boys Choir*
- 1 May 2021 Tosca rehearsal *Senior Girls*
- 11 July 2021 Set me as a seal *Senior Girls*

It should also be noted that the choir was able to buy a good quality second-hand piano to (replace the tired one provided by Cherwell School) due to the generosity of Choir Patrons who donated £1600. This is also a huge tribute to the choir and the esteem with which they hold it. We are very grateful for their continuing support.

3. Looking forward

This year has tested the enthusiasm of of our members, ingenuity and perseverance of our teachers and commitment of trustees. Inevitably,

there has been a slight drop in the overall roll (about 20%) but the choir morale remains high. At the time of writing, the government look set to substantially reduce the covid restrictions. This is clearly good news for the prospects of the choir in terms of continuing to rehearse and the potential for performances. Of course, we must still put the safety of our members first and are ever-mindful of the possibility of a recurrent Covid-outbreak. So, while many are bursting for change, our approach must be ambitious but careful.

Changes will come, though. David Palmer and Daisy Livesey (who have both taught the Boys Choir and supported teaching in Senior Girls) are leaving to further their academic studies and a replacement-post has been advertised.

Despite the problems created by Covid, Richard Vendome remains as ambitious as ever, treating the pandemic as an interruption, not a show-stopper. His vision and enthusiasm continues to drive the choir forward. Our aim is to continue to support novel and rewarding projects that stretch the girls and provide unique openings to develop their experience. We are determined that Covid's intervention will not dim this ambition, albeit the means must adapt to take account of new challenges.

None of this would be possible without the professionalism and dedication of our wonderful teachers. Although the teaching staff has again undergone some changes, it continues to be hugely talented and committed. Their willingness to work in unfamiliar ways and much longer hours in response to Covid was remarkable and very welcome - thank you all so much - the choir simply couldn't continue without you!

I did not expect (or want) to find myself by in the role of Chair again this year. Despite my initial reluctance, it has been rewarding to steer the choir through the pandemic with the prospect of a bright future awaiting. This is my final term as Chair and can reflect on five years of hugely rewarding effort, made possible by trustees, teachers and choir members (past and present) who have made the experience enormously enjoyable. My thanks go to you all.

*Jon Livesey
Interim Chair
2th July 2022*

[D] Musical Director's Report

One of our distinguished patrons described the coronavirus situation as a "palaver" - for him a strong word. We have probably asked ourselves the

same questions as other music groups. How long will this go on for? Should we suspend our activities until things improve? Is singing such a dangerous mechanism for Covid infection? Fortunately some of our choir parents work on the inside of coronavirus research, and have been able to help us navigate through the often contradictory information coming from official sources.

The past year and a half has been an exercise in finding new ways of working and in holding our nerve. I have have spent my Saturday mornings hosting Zoom sessions from my desk, observing David and Daisy working with the boys, and running Senior Choir sessions during lockdown. Tom and Louise with the Juniors and Hannah and Lucia with the Preps have run parallel operations, with great success. Recently we have launched two exciting new groups, "Mini Music", for babies and toddlers, and "Training Club", directed by Margaret, which provides a bridge between the Junior and Senior Choirs. From my perspective, producing online material and "Saturday at Noon" talks has been more successful than running rehearsals on Zoom, mainly because of the demoralising effect of muting the singers, especially the mid-teens, who seem the most affected by isolation. It is devastating to see that some high-fliers have lost all confidence, whereas our Alumnae singers (aged 20-50) have rehearsed with great gusto in glorious silence. The Senior Choir in particular will need a lot of work to make a full recovery. I'm grateful for the kind support of most of our families, but am frankly disappointed that some have chosen to abandon us during this challenging and unprecedented situation, making our task even harder.

Last year we said farewell to Peps, who has worked with us for a quarter of a century and following Brexit has now relocated to France. Her son George (a founder member of our Boys' Choir, who produces some of our YouTube videos) is now Assistant Organist at Norwich Cathedral, and younger son Will is studying at the Guildhall, where he will soon be joined by David Palmer, our brilliant Boys' Choir director and girls' accompanist. During her gap year Daisy has assisted with the boys' and senior girls' choirs, before moving on to study singing at the Royal Academy of Music. This term Iselin Fraser has taken the ARSM diploma before going to Norway to continue her studies, and Celeste Lingas has followed in her sister's footsteps with an exceptional high distinction in grade 8 singing.

Last but not least I thank our dedicated chairman, Jon Livesey, who with Esther's support has given us five years of efficient and unstinting service.

RV 2/7/22



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name Oxford Youth Choirs	No (if any) 299109
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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 8/16/2020	To	Period end date 8/15/2021
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
Subscriptions	29,925	-	-	29,925
Concerts	90	-	-	90
Other events	1,380	-	-	1,380
Donations	17	1,600	-	1,617
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	31,412	1,600	-	33,012
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	31,412	1,600	-	33,012
A3 Payments				
Music tuition fees	21,418	-	-	21,418
Concert expenses	1,507	-	-	1,507
Purchase of piano	-	1,600	-	1,600
Administrator expenses	4,680	-	-	4,680
Rent and storage costs	2,646	-	-	2,646
Other running costs	2,306	-	-	2,306
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	32,557	1,600	-	34,157
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total payments	32,557	1,600	-	34,157
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 1,145	-	-	- 1,145
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	21,825	-	-	21,825
Cash funds this year end	20,680	-	-	20,680

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Gold Account	10,038	-
	CAF Cash Account	10,542	-
	Barclays Bank	100	-
	Total cash funds	20,680	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Independent examiner fee	Unrestricted	100
	Teaching & rehearsal fees	Unrestricted	1,977
			-
			-
			-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name

CC16a

Last year
to the nearest £

35,559
3,017
15
588
-
-
-
-
39,179

-
-

39,179

27,713
4,477
-
4,632
2,325
2,701
-
-
-
41,848

-

41,848

-	2,669
-	-
-	24,494
-	21,825



Endowment funds
to nearest £

-
-
-
-

OK

Endowment funds
to nearest £

-
-
-
-
-
-

Current value (optional)

-
-
-
-
-

Current value (optional)

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

When due (optional)

Date of approval



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Oxford Youth Choirs

**On accounts for the year
ended**

15/08/2021

**Charity no
(if any)**

299109

Set out on pages

1 and 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 15/08/2020.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Peter J. Stevenson

Date:

10/06/2022

Name:

Peter J Stevenson

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

FCA

Address:

8 Harbord Road

Oxford

OX2 8LJ

OXFORD YOUTH CHOIRS

England & Wales - Charity number 299109

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	16	08	2019		15	08	2020

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Oxford Youth Choirs

Other names charity is known by The Oxford Girls' Choir The Oxford Boys' Choir

Registered charity number (if any) 299109

Charity's principal address

16 Swinbourne Road	
Littlemore	
Oxford	
Postcode	OX4 4PQ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	David Jones			
2	Nicholas Boyd Wenban-Smith	Secretary		
3	Esther Mary Livesey			
4	Professor Helen Irene McShane		Resigned 30 th July 2020	
5	Nilanjana Banerji			
6	Charlotte Anne Dewhurst			
7	Jonathan Livesey	Chair		
8	Dr Widanaralalage Don Nilushika Weerapperuma		Resigned 30 th July 2020	
9	Edward Conroy			
10	Geoffrey John Sutton	Treasurer		
11	Eve Sheila Madeley-Wyatt		Date of appointment 12 th Sept 2019	
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Registered charity

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Elected at Annual General Meeting

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

--

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects through the training of girls and boys in singing and musicianship, and by the presentation of public concerts and recitals, and by other such ways as the Choir through its Committee shall determine from time to time.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The charity aims to provide vocal training to the highest standard for children aged 4 to 18, in pursuit of its charitable objectives. All members attend on Saturday mornings during school, throughout the school term at Cherwell School in Oxford, and via Zoom during lockdowns. Members from all parts of Oxfordshire, and further afield, are welcome. The choir focusses on joint objectives of accessibility and a high standard of tuition.

Concerts have been organised, designed and performed to maximise the diversity of musical repertoire. However, due to the pandemic, sadly it has not been possible to put on operas or other concerts. This means that choir-members have missed out on the opportunity to increase the breadth of musical learning during this time with the charity.

In all its activities, the Trustees of the charity have had due regard both to the objectives of the charity, and also to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission, in exercising their powers and duties. Uppermost has been the safekeeping of choir members and staff, as well as our duty to the wider community in helping to stem the flow of the Covid pandemic.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

With the advent of Covid in March 2020, the choir successfully transitioned to an online format within a couple of weeks of lockdown commencing at the end of March 2020. The charity wishes to recognise the tremendous contribution made by the teachers during this unprecedented period of rapid transition in delivering the new teaching format and also the superb commitment made by the children in continuing their tuition via the new online format.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Our usual Christmas schedule was delivered, as follows:

6 Dec **Senior Girls** (reduced) – *Jewin WOMEN2WOMEN fundraising concert, Witney*

8 Dec **All Choirs** – *Christmas Concert, St John the Evangelist, Oxford*

8 Dec **Senior Girls** – *Evening Concert, St John the Evangelist, Oxford*

14 Dec **Senior Girls** (reduced) – *OAC Christmas Dinner, Exeter College*

Spring opera

This year's opera was to have been an innovative and exciting exploration of Purcell and Puccini's portrayal of tragic heroines. Unfortunately despite all the hard work put into rehearsing by the girls and teachers, wardrobe and helpers, it was not to be – Covid 19 intervened and the event was postponed two weeks before delivery.

OYC online

Keen to maintain interest and develop new areas to develop, the teaching staff lost no time in developing an online offer, comprising of rehearsal material available via youtube and Saturday morning rehearsals via Zoom. Despite the inherent difficulties with latency (delay) when multiple people use Zoom, the sessions have been very successful. Another new innovation has been the highly successful 'Saturday at Noon' presentation – every week we've been graced by experts in their field, speaking on topics ranging from Covid 19 to the Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens – we are enormously grateful!

Looking forward

The Covid 19 lock-down and ensuing restrictions look set to hinder our plans, but not our ambition. Rehearsing normally at Cherwell looks unlikely before Christmas. So our energies will be ploughed into refining and improving the online offer. Options include a more flexible range of activities for choir members to join in with and extending our reach to new members, living outside Oxford. Occasional performances in small groups may be possible, with social distancing in place. Our aim is not simply to survive the Covid difficulties, but to develop an online offer that continues to be a resource that provides new opportunities and variety to the OYC offer, for years to come.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity aims to hold a minimum of 3 months' expenditure in cash reserves, and raises funding from participants and/or their families as necessary to ensure that reserve levels are maintained,

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

While the charity made a loss this year, the drop in membership fees was offset by the avoidance of costs associated with live performances which historically have rarely broken-even.

The choir saw a substantial dip in income in the summer term as Covid lockdown hit family finances, with some families withdrawing their children, in the main because their children couldn't make the transition to online learning, while others requested financial assistance under the choirs' bursary scheme. The trustees took the unprecedented step of suspending some fees for those families who weren't benefiting from the Government's furlough scheme and who were facing dire financial circumstances but who's children were participating enthusiastically in the online learning session. The trustees felt it was better to keep the children on-roll and support them rather ask them to leave while their parents experienced a temporary drop in income.

The Choir invested in a new software service to help manage its administrative function, moving membership databases, payment of subscriptions etc onto 'Loveadmin'.

The Charity also invested money in a software package that allows staff to assemble a digital orchestra and produce backing tracks for Youtube videos.

Section F Other optional information

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Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

GJ Sutton

JG Livesey

Full name(s)	Geoffrey John Sutton	Jonathan Guy Livesey
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Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	
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Date	14 th June 2021
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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name Oxford Youth Choirs	No (if any) 299109
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 16/08/2019	To	Period end date 15/08/2020
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Subscriptions	35,559	-	-	35,559	45,039
Concerts	3,017	-	-	3,017	10,681
Tour and other events	15	-	-	15	10,474
Donations	588	-	-	588	3,085
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	39,179	-	-	39,179	69,279
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	39,179	-	-	39,179	69,279
A3 Payments					
Music tuition fees	27,713	-	-	27,713	23,873
Concert expenses	4,477	-	-	4,477	18,819
Tour expenses	-	-	-	-	14,672
Administrator expenses	4,632	-	-	4,632	5,700
Rent and storage costs	2,325	-	-	2,325	4,481
Other running costs	2,701	-	-	2,701	2,326
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	41,848	-	-	41,848	69,871
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	41,848	-	-	41,848	69,871
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,669	-	-	- 2,669	- 592
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	24,494	-	-	24,494	25,086
Cash funds this year end	21,825	-	-	21,825	24,494

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Gold Account	10,037	-	-
	CAF Cash Account	11,787	-	-
	Barclays Bank	1	-	-
	Total cash funds	21,825	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	-	-	-
	Independent examiner fee	Unrestricted	100	
	Music hire	Unrestricted	158	
	Posters	Unrestricted	64	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	G J Sutton	Geoffrey John Sutton	15/06/2021
	JG Livesey	Jonathan Guy Livesey	15/05/2021



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Oxford Youth Choirs

**On accounts for the year
ended**

15/08/2020

**Charity no
(if any)**

299109

Set out on pages

1 and 2

(Remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 15/08/2020.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Peter J Stevenson

Date: 15/06/2021

Name: Peter J Stevenson

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

FCA

Address: 8 Harbord Road

Oxford

OX2 8LJ